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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION

In re:

EASY STREET HOLDING, LLC, et al.,

Debtors.

Tax ID Numbers:

35-2183713 (Easy Street Holding, LLC) 20-4502979 (Easy Street Partners, LLC) 84-1685764 (Easy Street Mezzanine, LLC) Case No. 09-29905 (Jointly Administered with Cases 09-29907 and 09-29908)

Chapter 11

Honorable R. Kimball Mosier

HEBER AVENUE PARTNERS LLC'S OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 27 OF WILLIAM SHOAF PURSUANT TO SECTION 502(b) OF THE BANKRUPTCY CODE AND BANKRUPTCY RULES 3001, 3003 AND 3007

Heber Avenue Partners, LLC ("<u>Heber</u>"), the reorganized debtor pursuant to the Amended Plan of Reorganization of Easy Street Partners, LLC and WestLB, AG dated June 16, 2010 (the "Plan"), by and through its undersigned counsel, hereby objects (the "Objection") to Claim No.

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27 filed by William Shoaf (the "Shoaf Claim") against the estate of Easy Street Partners, LLC ("Partners"). Heber objects on the basis that this claim provides insufficient information and documentation to demonstrate its *prima facie* validity and/or to demonstrate that the amount sought is a proper obligations of Partners' estate. This Objection is submitted pursuant to section 502(b) of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rules 3001, 3003 and 3007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules"). By this Objection, Heber requests entry of an order disallowing and expunging the Shoaf Claim in its entirety. In support of its Objection, Heber respectfully states as follows:

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 1. On September 14, 2009 (the "Petition Date"), Easy Street Partners, LLC ("Partners"), Easy Street Holding, LLC ("Holding"), and Easy Street Mezzanine, LLC ("Mezzanine" and together with Partners and Holding, the "Debtors") commenced these jointly-administered bankruptcy cases (the "Chapter 11 Cases") with the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Utah (the "Court") under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").
- 2. The Debtors are limited liability companies and affiliates of one another. Partners, which, prior to the Effective Date of the Plan, owned the real estate and improvements constituting the Sky Lodge in Park City, Utah ("Sky Lodge"), is 100% owned by Mezzanine. Holding is the 100% owner and managing member of Mezzanine.
- 3. On June 16, 2010, the Plan was filed. The Court confirmed the Plan on June 28, 2010 and entered an order approving confirmation of the Plan (the "Confirmation Order") on July 2, 2010 [Dkt. No. 600].

- 4. The Effective Date of the Plan occurred on July 27, 2010, on which date Heber succeeded to all of the assets and certain of the liabilities of Partners in accordance with the terms of the Plan.
- 5. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 §§ U.S.C. 157 and 1334. This is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).
- 6. Partners scheduled an unsecured claim in favor of Shoaf in the amount of \$18,385.20, on account of "Professional." See Schedule F [Dkt No. 16], Case No. 09-29907, at 32. The Shoaf Claim in the amount of \$43,385.20 for "Reimbursement of Expenses" was received and recorded on the Partners' Claims Register as Claim No. 27 on January 5, 2010. A true and correct copy of the Shoaf Claim is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Shoaf Claim contains no further information or documentation regarding the basis for the amount allegedly owed by Partners' estate to Shoaf.
- 7. Heber, through its attorneys, has requested supporting documentation and information regarding the Shoaf Claim. Although Heber has received some additional information relating to this claim, it has not received any documentation supporting an enforceable obligation of Partners.
- 8. By this Objection, Heber seek entry of an order, pursuant to section 502(b) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 3001, 3003 and 3007 disallowing in full and expunging the Shoaf Claim in its entirety on the basis that such claim contains insufficient information and documentation to support a legal basis for the amount claimed therein.

ARGUMENT

- 9. When a debtor commences a bankruptcy proceeding, each of its creditors is entitled to file a proof of claim—<u>i.e.</u>, a document providing proof of a "right to payment"—against the debtor's estate. See Travelers Cas. & Sur. Co. of Am. v. Pac. Gas & Elec. Co., 549 U.S. 443, 449 (2007); 11 U.S.C. § 101(5) (a "claim" for bankruptcy purposes means a "right to payment", whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, unliquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured). A party asserting a claim against a debtor must initially allege sufficient facts to support its claim, and only if this standard of sufficiency is met is the claim entitled to a presumption of validity. See Caplan v. B-Line, LLC (In re Kirkland), 572 F.3d 838, 840-41 (10th Cir. 2009). "If objection is made to the proof of claim, the creditor has the ultimate burden of persuasion as to the validity and amount of the claim." Agricredit Corp. v. Harrison (In re Harrison), 987 F.2d 677, 680 (10th Cir. 1993).
- 10. Section 502(a) of the Bankruptcy Code provides that proofs of claim are "deemed allowed" unless a party in interest objects. 11 U.S.C. § 502(a). This Objection to the Shoaf Claim is founded in part on section 502(b)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code, which provides in pertinent part:
 - [I]f such objection to a claim is made, the court, after notice and a hearing, shall determine the amount of such claim in lawful currency of the United States as of the date of the filing of the petition, and shall allow such claim in such amount, except to the extent that—
 - (1) such claim is unenforceable against the debtor and property of the debtor, under any agreement or applicable law for a reason other than because such claim is contingent or unmatured

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11 U.S.C. § 502(b)(1). Section 502(b)(1) recognizes the settled principle that "[c]reditors' entitlements in bankruptcy arise in the first instance from the underlying substantive law creating the debtor's obligation, subject to any qualifying or contrary provisions of the Bankruptcy Code." Travelers, 549 U.S. at 450-51 (citing Raleigh v. Illinois Dep't of Revenue, 530 U.S. 15, 20 (2000)). A claim against the bankruptcy estate, therefore, "will not be allowed in a bankruptcy proceeding if the same claim would not be enforceable against the debtor outside of bankruptcy." In re Combustion Eng'g, Inc., 391 F.3d 190, 245 (3d Cir. 2004).

- 11. The Shoaf Claim should be disallowed and expunged because it provides insufficient information and documentation to support a legal basis for such claim. Bald assertions of liability, without more, do not satisfy the burden a claimant must meet to establish a *prima facie* valid claim under section 502 of the Bankruptcy Code. See, e.g., In re Kincaid, 388 B.R. 610, 614 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. 2008) (proofs of claim that fail to provide facts and documents to support the claim are not entitled to the presumption of prima facie validity).
- 12. The Shoaf Claim should also be disallowed for failure to comply with Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c). Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c) requires that

"[w]hen a claim . . . is based on a writing, the original or a duplicate shall be filed with the proof of claim. If the writing has been lost or destroyed, a statement of the circumstances of the loss or destruction shall be filed with the claim.

Here, although the Shoaf Claim is for "reimbursement of expenses," the Shoaf Claim does not document or explain (i) the amount of expenses incurred or (ii) the document giving rise to an enforceable obligation for reimbursement against Partners. Because the Shoaf Claim provides no facts or documentation to support a legal basis for such claim, it is not *prima facie* valid and should be disallowed. See In re Kirkland, 572 F.3d at 840-41.

CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the reasons discussed above, Heber respectfully requests that the Court enter an order disallowing the Shoaf Claim in its entirety and expunging such claim, and to grant any and other relief it deems good and proper.

DATED this 23rd day of November, 2010.

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

/s/ Benjamin J. Kotter

Annette W. Jarvis Peggy Hunt Benjamin J. Kotter

and

Richard W. Havel SIDLEY & AUSTIN LLP

Attorneys for Heber Avenue Partners, LLC

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Exhibit A

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT District of Utalp A Central Division URT PROOF OF CLAIM

| UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT District of Utaly A Contral Division | PROOF OF CLAIM |
|---|--|
| Name of Debtor: | Case Number: |
| EASY STREET PARTNERS, LLC 2010 JAN -5 PM 1 | |
| NOTE: This form should not be used to make a claim for an administrative expense arising after the commencement of the case. A request for payment of an administrative expense may be filed pursuant to 11 U.S.C. \$503. | |
| Name of Creditor (the person or other entity to whom the debtor owes money or property): | ☐ Check this box to indicate that |
| WILLIAM SHOAF | this claim amends a previously filed claim. |
| | filed claim. |
| Name and address where notices should be sent: William Shoaf | Court Claim Number: |
| 4780 Winchester Ct | (If known) |
| Park City, UT 84098 | |
| Telephone number: 435.640.7700 | Filed on: |
| Name and address where payment should be sent (if different from above): | |
| | ☐ Check this box if you are aware |
| N/A | that anyone else has filed a proof of |
| | claim relating to your claim. Attach copy |
| Telephone number: | of statement giving particulars. X Check this box if you are the |
| · | debtor or trustee in this case. |
| 1. Amount of Claim as of Date Case Filed: \$43,385.20 | 5. Amount of Claim Entitled to |
| | Priority under 11 U.S.C. §507(a). If |
| If all or part of your claim is secured, complete item 4 below; however, if all of your claim is unsecured, do not item 4. | any portion of your claim falls in one of the following categories, |
| ion 7. | check the box and state the |
| If all or part of your claim is entitled to priority, complete item 5. | amount. |
| | Specify the priority of the claim. |
| ☐ Check this box if claim includes interest or other charges in addition to the principal amount of claim. Attaitemized attatament of interest or charges | |
| itemized statement of interest or charges. | under11 U.S.C. §507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B). |
| 2. Basis for Claim: Reimbursement of Expenses | |
| (See instruction #2 on reverse side.) | ☐ Wages, salaries, or commissions |
| 3. Last four digits of any number by which creditor identifies debtor: N/A | (up to \$10,950*) earned within 180 days before filing of the bankruptcy |
| 3a. Debtor may have scheduled account as: N/A | petition or cessation of the debtor's |
| (See instruction #3a on reverse side.) | business, whichever is earlier - |
| 4. Secured Claim (See instruction #4 on reverse side.) | 11U.S.C. §507 (a)(4). |
| Check the appropriate box if your claim is secured by a lien on property or a right of setoff and provide the reque | sted Contributions to an employee |
| information. | benefit plan –11 U.S.C. §507 (a)(5). |
| Nature of property or right of setoff: Real Estate Motor Vehicle Other Describe: | |
| Describe. | ☐ Up to \$2,425* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of |
| Value of Property: \$ Annual Interest Rate% | property or services for personal, |
| Amount of arrearage and other charges as of time case filed included in secured | family, or household use -11 |
| • | U.S.C. §507(a)(7). |
| claim, If any: \$Basis for perfection: | ☐ Taxes or penalties owed to |
| Amount of Secured Claim: \$ Amount Unsecured: \$ | governmental units –11 U.S.C. §507(a)(8). |
| 6. Credits: The amount of all payments on this claim has been credited for the purpose of making this proo | f of claim. |
| 7. Documents: Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purcl | hase orders. |
| invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. Y | ou may paragraph of 11 U.S.C. §507 (a)(). |
| also attach a summary. Attach redacted copies of documents providing evidence of perfection of a security You may also attach a summary. (See instruction 7 and definition of "redacted" on reverse side.) | Amount entitled to priority: \$ |
| Tou may also actually a summany. (over mon action) and definition of Temperal On Texterse side., | Ψ |
| DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS. ATTACHED DOCUMENTS MAY BE DESTROYED | *Amounts are subject to adjustment |
| AFTERSCANNING. | on4/1/10 and every 3 years thereafter |
| If the documents are not available, please explain: | with respect to cases commenced on or |
| , | after the date of adjustment. |
| Signature: The person filing this claim paust sign it. Sign and print name and title, if | any of FOR COURT USE ONLY |
| the creditor or other person authorized to file this claim and state address and teleph | one |
| Date: number if different from the notice address above. Affach copy of power of attorney | , if any. |
| 12-30-09 WILLIAM SHOAF | |
| THE DIVINI SHOW | |
| 2014(-1) | |